

(e) **STUDY.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and make publicly available a report, which shall—

(1) analyze the compliance of agencies, contractors, subcontractors, and grantees with the requirements of this section;

(2) identify any obstacles that remain to prevent the public from accessing the cost and findings of covered studies and other research and development projects funded by agencies; and

(3) analyze efforts by agencies to prevent duplicative spending.

SA 1510. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. SINEMA) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title V, insert the following:

SEC. _____. REPEAL OF CERTAIN TIME LIMITATIONS ON LEAVE FOR SPOUSES.

Section 102(f) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(f)) is repealed.

SA 1511. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF AUDITOR GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.

(a) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the National Science Foundation should pass a financial statement audit on a yearly basis; and

(2) the National Science Foundation should be able to demonstrate the recipients of all appropriated money.

(b) **APPOINTMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the National Science Foundation an Office of Auditor General to be headed by an Auditor General who shall be appointed from civilian life by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among individuals who have—

(A) an extensive financial management or accounting background; and

(B) experience with successfully presenting the financial statements of a large or complex organization and obtaining an unmodified opinion on audits of such financial statements.

(2) **INELIGIBILITY.**—An individual shall not be eligible to be appointed as Auditor General under paragraph (1) if the individual is an employee of the National Science Founda-

tion or was an employee of the National Science Foundation at any point in the 7-year period preceding the date of the appointment.

(c) **ROLE.**—The Auditor General appointed under subsection (b) shall fulfill the role of internal auditor of the National Science Foundation through conducting independent review of the financial administration of the National Science Foundation.

(d) **DUTIES AND AUTHORITIES.**—Subject to the authority, direction, and control of the Director of the National Science Foundation, the Auditor General appointed under subsection (b) shall perform such duties and exercise such authorities as the Director may prescribe, including the following:

(1) Managing the day-to-day accounting and finance activities of the National Science Foundation.

(2) Establishing policies, procedures, and requirements to ensure that all financial statements of the National Science Foundation are able to be audited.

(3) Exercising authority, direction, and control over the financial statements of the National Science Foundation, including authority to direct the provision of financial information required for the audit.

(4) Providing to Congress on a yearly basis, a report of all research expenditures, grants, and awards, including identification of any foreign recipients of expenditures, grants, or awards.

(5) Evaluating and providing recommendations regarding—

(A) indirect costs charged to grants;

(B) duplication and overlap in funding among different grants and other government agencies and programs; and

(C) the cost effectiveness of initiatives in meeting the stated goals and missions.

SA 1512. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. SBIR AND STTR PROGRAMS: USE OF GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, AND OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY; USE OF SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 301 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 1841 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), is amended by inserting after section 4004 the following new section:

“§ 4005. SBIR and STTR programs: use of grants, cooperative agreements, and other transaction authority; use of simplified acquisition procedures

“(a) USE OF GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT, AND OTHER TRANSACTION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding section 6303 of title 31, the Secretary of Defense shall provide that grants, cooperative agreements, and other transactions authorized under section 4002 of this title may be used in carrying out the SBIR program and the STTR program within the Department of Defense.

“(b) USE OF SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION PROCEDURES FOR SBIR AND STTR CONTRACTS IN EX-

CESS OF SIMPLIFIED ACQUISITION THRESHOLD.—(1) In carrying out the SBIR program and the STTR program within the Department of Defense, the Secretary of Defense may use simplified acquisition procedures for a contract under such program without regard to the amount of the contract.

“(2) Section 3571(b) of this title, and any other provision of law for which the applicability of the provision depends on whether the amount of a contract is not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, shall apply to a contract for which the Secretary uses simplified acquisition procedures by reason of the authority under paragraph (1) in the same manner as if the amount of the contract were not greater than the simplified acquisition threshold.

“(3) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure that the applicability of the provisions of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) providing for the determination of the respective rights of the United States and the small business concern with respect to intellectual property rights, and with respect to any right to carry out follow-on research, under a funding agreement under the SBIR program or the STTR program is not affected by the use of simplified acquisition procedures.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The terms ‘SBIR’ and ‘STTR’ have the meanings given those terms, respectively, in section 9(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(e)).

“(2) The term ‘simplified acquisition procedures’ means the simplified acquisition procedures described in section 3571 of this title.

“(3) The term ‘simplified acquisition threshold’ has the meaning given that term in section 134 of title 41.”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections at the beginning of such chapter is amended by striking the item relating to section 4005 and inserting the following:

“4005. SBIR and STTR programs: use of grants, cooperative agreements, and other transaction authority; use of simplified acquisition procedures.”

SA 1513. Ms. ERNST submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title V of division B, insert the following:

SEC. 25 _____. ADVANCED BIOFUEL RESEARCH.

The Director shall ensure that any study of electric vehicles or renewable fuels funded by the Foundation includes research on advanced biofuel.

SA 1514. Ms. ERNST (for herself and Ms. HASSAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1260, to establish a new Directorate for Technology and Innovation in the National Science Foundation, to establish a regional technology hub program, to require a strategy and report on economic security, science, research, innovation, manufacturing, and job creation, to establish a critical supply chain resiliency program, and for